

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line ¹³~~19~~ of page ⁹~~15~~ with the following amended paragraph:

Computer 16, which contains the client process 11A for the backup and restore software, also has its own software modules in the preferred embodiment of the invention. The backup and restore application, has to be capable of handling either database backups or file system backups. For example, the backup and restore software has to be capable of handling backups from an Oracle or other databases (e.g. Sybase, Informix) or backups from a file system such as that which would reside on an NT server. Thus, computer 16 could potentially have software for either file systems shown at 51 or database software, such as that produced and sold by Oracle, as shown at 53. 11A shows the client process of the backup and restore software. Similar to the software residing in server process, the client process also contains the communication mechanism 58 to facilitate communication over the network 18 to the server process 11 residing on computer 12. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the communication mechanisms 58 are TCP/IP sockets. Client process 11A, similar to server process 11, also wishes to facilitate communication to server process 11 through data storage system 14. It does this with the use of communication mechanism 60. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, communication mechanism 60 is a second set of storage sockets specially designed to facilitate communication through data storage system 14. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the storage sockets 60 are STP or SSLsockets, as described earlier.